

Remarks

Summary

The specification, the claims, and the drawings have been amended to improve their form and the specification has been amended to overcome formal objections made in the Office Action. Therefore, the application is now in allowable form.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 have been amended to improve their form. Claims 1 and 11 are independent.

Requested action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Formal drawing objections

The Examiner objects to the drawings because they allegedly do not include the following reference characters discussed in the specification: 1~~l~~, 130, L, R, 13~~l~~, and 13~~i~~.

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objections, Applicants are filing clean and marked-up copies of a substitute specification:

- changing “1~~l~~”, to --1e--, which is shown in Figure 2;
- changing “13~~l~~” to --13l--, which is shown in Figures 12 and 19; and
- deleting “L” and “R”.

In addition, Applicants have reviewed the specification and could not find any discussion of reference numeral “130” or reference character “13i” therein.

Applicants did find reference characters “13o” at page 17, lines 13 and 16 of the originally-filed specification, and as a result, Applicants have amended Figure 2 to change the leftmost occurrence of “13a” to --13o--, because the leftmost occurrence of “13a” denotes the transfer opening portion 13o.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the drawing objections be withdrawn.

Additional drawing amendments

Applicants have also amended Figure 2 to delete a duplicate illustration of reference numeral 13 and have amended Figures 4, 5, 7, and 18 to delete reference characters therefrom that are not discussed in the specification.

In addition, Applicants have amended Figure 4 to change the leftmost occurrence of “13j” to --13i--, to avoid a duplicate illustration of reference characters “13i” and because the leftmost occurrence of “13j” relates to the mounting portion for arm 83a, which page 30, line 1 of the originally-filed specification denotes as “13i”.

Formal specification objections

The Examiner objects to the specification because “1l” should be changed to --1e--, because “13l” should be changed to --13i--, and because “L” and “R” should be deleted. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objections, Applicants have adopted the Examiner’s suggestions in the enclosed clean and marked-up copies of a substitute specification

Additional specification amendments

The enclosed clean and marked-up copies of the substitute specification make additional changes to improve the form of the application. For example, the substitute specification amends page 30 of the originally-filed specification to add a discussion of hole 83d shown in Figure 4, by amending page 30, lines 4 and 14 of the originally-filed specification, to indicate that the knocked-up portion 83c contains the hole 83d. This amendment is shown, for example, at page 21, lines 18 and 23 of the enclosed marked-up copy of the substitute specification.

Claim amendments

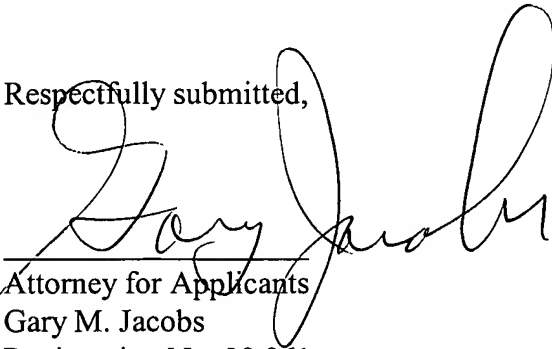
Applicants have also amended Claims 1-20 to improve their form.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Gary M. Jacobs
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile No.: (212) 218-2200

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend the drawings as follows as discussed below and as shown on the enclosed corrected formal drawings.

In Figure 2:

Change the leftmost occurrence of reference characters “13a” to --13o--.

Delete the leftmost occurrence of reference numeral “13”.

In Figure 4:

Change the leftmost occurrence of “13j” to --13i--.

Delete reference characters “22b” and “90b” and the lead lines therefrom.

In Figure 5:

Please delete reference characters “22b” and “90b” and the lead lines therefrom.

In Figure 7:

Please delete reference numeral “33” and the lead line therefrom.

Figure 18:

Please delete reference characters “90b” and the lead line therefrom.